

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: 50623.71

### REMARKS

Thank you for your kind interview of 2 September 2003 and thank you for your thoughts about where in the invention novelty may be found.

- Claims 2, 4-11, 13-18, 20-22, and 29-34 are pending.
- Claims 2, 4-11, 13-18, 20-22, 29, and 30 are rejected.
- Claims 1, 3, 12, 19, and 23-28 are cancelled.

Claim 29 is the lead claim of this patent application. It is substantially the same as claim 1, as filed, except that before amendment, it contained two additional limitations: a negative limitation having to do with dialdehyde cross-linking and a limitation to step a) iii) of "followed by". In the current amendment, Applicants have removed the phrase "followed by", returning the language of claim 29 to that of claim 1, as filed. Likewise, Applicants have removed the negative limitation, as well. Claim 29 has an additional limitation: "wherein the second solvent has a concentration of 0.00001%-10% by volume. For support for this limitation, see page 13, line 28-30 of the specification as filed.

Claim 12 has been canceled, without prejudice.

Claim 31 is a new claim. Support for this claim can be found in claim 1, as filed. The limitation to step a) iii) of "followed by" can be found in the specification at page 14, line 15, which explains that the solution is first formed and then coated. Moreover, additional support can be found in the examples. Additionally, claim 31 specifically recites porous hydrophobic polymers. Support for this recital can be found at page 11, lines 5-20. Finally, claim 31 contains the negative limitation drawn to dialdehyde cross-linking as was previously recited in claim 29. Since none of the specifically claimed porous hydrophobic polymers contains primary amines and dialdehyde cross-linking requires primary amines, the specification inherently teaches this limitation.

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Claim 32 is newly added. Support for the limitations of this claim, other than those limitations contained in the parent claim 29, can be found in the example section.

Claim 33 is newly added. Support for the limitations of this claim other than those limitations contained in its parent claims 29 and 32, can be found in the example section and in the specification at page 13, line 7-10.

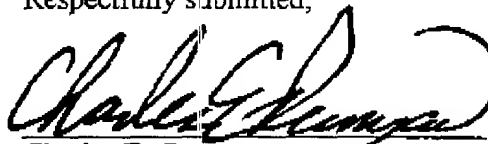
Claim 34 is newly added. Support for the limitations of this claim other than those limitations contained in its parent claims 29, 32, and 33, can be found in the example section. Specifically, DURAFLO is such a quaternary ammonium heparin salt.

I can help you further or do anything to expedite the application's issuance, please contact me.

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